

REMARKS

By the present amendment, the title has been amended.

Claims 1-11 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-3 and 10-11 are directed to a polarizing member, claims 4-7 are directed to an illuminator, and claims 8-9 are directed to a liquid-crystal display device.

As a preliminary, in the Office Action, it is indicated that the certified copy of the priority document has not been filed in this application.

Applicants submit that priority under 35 U.S.C. 119(a) of the prior Japanese application No. 2000-337730 listed in the Declaration is not claimed in this application.

Next, in the Office Action, claims 1-4, 6, and 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over JP 11-338220 (Motomura) in view of US 5,170,194 (Kurematsu), claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Motomura and Kurematsu, further in view of US 6,167,708 (Kaneko), and claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Motomura and Kurematsu, further in view of US 6,490,017 (Huang).

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested. Applicants submit the attached Declaration under 37 C.F.R. 1.131 to show that they made the presently claimed invention before June 8, 2001, which is the effective date of Motomura.

Specifically, the Declaration establishes that the inventors were in possession of the invention and had reduced the invention to practice before November 6, 2000. A certified copy of prior Japanese application No. 2000-337730 (JP'730) filed on November 6, 2000 by the present

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inventors, and a verified English translation thereof, are enclosed with the Declaration. Accordingly, Motomura is removed as a reference against the presently claimed invention.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the rejection should be withdrawn.


In conclusion, the invention as presently claimed is patentable. It is believed that the claims are in allowable condition and a notice to that effect is earnestly requested.

In the event there is, in the Examiner's opinion, any outstanding issue and such issue may be resolved by means of a telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

In the event this paper is not considered to be timely filed, the Applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of the response period. Please charge the fee for such extension and any other fees which may be required to our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN & HATTORI, LLP

By: 
Nicolas E. Seckel
Attorney for Applicants
Reg. No. 44,373

Atty. Docket No. 020532
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
Tel: (202) 659-2930
Fax: (202) 887-0357
NES:rep

Encls.: Declaration under Rule 1.131
with Certified Copy of JP 2002-337730
Verified English Translation